

MEMORANDUM
ROHM AND HAAS COMPANY

COPIES TO (name and department)

To Mr. D. W. Kenny

Mr. V. L. Gregory
Mr. J. C. Haas
Mr. F. J. Rarig
Mr. W. Ambrogi
Mr. B. D. Allen

From Robert F. Goodale
Date March 12, 1971 (typed March 16th)

Subject ARSENICAL WASTE DISPOSAL - WHITMOYER LABORATORIES

135279

During the course of Friday, March 12th, I talked with a number of representatives of the news media. These discussions are summarized below for the record.

United Press International, Washington, D.C. (202-963-3173)

Mr. William Meade had telephoned Mr. Ambrogi at Myerstown, who had referred him to me. Mr. Meade was very sympathetic with our plight and was anxious that the story which would emanate from the Washington News Bureau be completely accurate and unprejudiced. I told him we had sent a telegram to Dr. Duncan MacDonald of the Council of Environmental Quality and read it to him. He used as a quote in the story which he was putting on the wire the last sentence of the telegram by Mr. Gregory reading: "Despite fact that operation is safe and effect on environment is harmless no further discharge of this or any other arsenical material will be made to the ocean or elsewhere until full information is presented to you". He suggested that we give the same information to William D. Ruckelshaus of the Environmental Protection Agency, 1626 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., telephone 202-632-7453. In Mr. Ruckelshaus' absence, I talked with Curt Harper of the Executive Communication office of that agency (202-632-7733), to whom I gave the full text of our news release and also some fill material. He has promised to bring the material to the attention of Mr. Ruckelshaus, including our offer to discuss the matter in detail with anyone that EPA might designate.

On the local scene I talked with the following.

United Press -- I gave United Press a run down on the news release which was being hand delivered to them and explained that the Washington bureau would also be provided material.

Associated Press -- I followed the same procedure with Associated Press.

Tom Ferrick of United Press International Philadelphia office (LC7-1373) telephoned several times - on Friday, March 12 and on March 15 and 16. I gave him the same background information as the other media representatives.

Wall Street Journal -- The Journal had not carried the story nor did it plan to do so. I gave the news office a brief rundown and they will call if it is decided a news story is warranted.

WCAU-TV -- Herb Clark called and asked for detailed comments on the disposal problem. He had been informed that arsenic had been found in the water supplies in the Myerstown area. I told him that this undoubtedly was the result of operations prior to our acquisition of the company and that we had installed a water-tight concrete storage basin and that the plant was being conducted on a "no emission" basis. I told him that the disposal method had been reviewed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Coast Guard, the Delaware River Basin Commission and the appropriate state and local authorities and that there had been no objection by any of these agencies to our disposal methods. My comments were taped and will be used if the story is given air time.

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KYW -- I talked with Don Lancer who asked if we knew that EPA was meeting in Washington today to discuss the arsenic disposal problem. I gave him much the same information as I had provided Mr. Clark. Mr. Lancer said he understood there was to be a mass protest over the shipment at the pier and said he would make certain the information as given on the air would be that there would be no shipment.

WFIL -- I talked with John Rosen and told him the actions we had taken. He asked about the suit that had been instituted by Representative Charles Sandman, Cape May, to enjoin us from the dumping. I told him that since we had already issued an order that no dumping was to take place until the matter had been cleared that there appeared to be no reasonable basis for the suit.

Howard Goldsmith, AEC radio, Philadelphia telephoned and was given the same information.

WIBG -- I talked with Ken Knox of the news staff and gave him the same general fill in I had provided the other stations. Ken Knox asked a number of searching questions and my comments were taped for airing on the news broadcasts.

WIP -- I talked with the newsroom at this station and taped comments which will be used on the news segments.

Philadelphia Newspapers

I talked with the newsrooms of the various Philadelphia papers -- Inquirer, Bulletin and Daily News and advised them we were hand delivering a brief news release on the matter. None of these publications requested more detailed information at this time.

Government Contacts

Mr. Crane Miller, Counsel of the Sub-Committee on Ocean and Atmosphere of the U.S. Senate Commerce Committee (202-225-7965) telephoned to ask what action we had taken in connection with the problem reviewed in the Washington papers. He seemed to be quite reassured with the information which I provided, and particularly with the comment that no shipments will be made of the waste material until the matter has been fully discussed with those concerned.

John Heritage - Senator Gaylor Nelson's office (202-225-8654)

Mr. Heritage telephoned since Senator Nelson apparently was planning an imminent news release. Mr. Parig joined me in this telephone call and we informed Mr. Heritage there would be no shipment on Saturday nor any further shipments of waste material until there had been a full discussion with all of the parties concerned. We pointed out that we had not been asked by any government agency to suspend the shipments but that we were doing so voluntarily in the interest of satisfying everyone concerned with the propriety of our disposal methods.

(Note - Dr. Duncan MacDonald of the President's Council on Environmental Quality, 722 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C. - 202-387-7468)

Subsequent to writing this report, a number of other calls have been received.

John Clancy of the Philadelphia Inquirer visited our office on Tuesday, March 16. This is covered in a separate memo of the same date.

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Mr. Kenny

Mr. Goodale

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Mr. Harry Tolan of the Philadelphia Bulletin telephoned on March 16 to ask for more information about (1) how durable the metal drums were for sea storage and (2) how dangerous the material would be upon exposure to the ocean. I explained that it would take many years for the material to affect the steel drum and that it would take years for the exterior of the drums to corrode in the sea. I told him that the material was quite inert and that its dissolution would require several years with no anticipated effect on the ecology of the ocean. He knew of our meeting with EPA on Friday and asked what we would do if that agency opposed dumping. I told him that we anticipated no objection but that any further action would depend upon the outcome of our discussions with EPA.

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